WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for enhancing performance of a computer system, comprising:

   deriving relationships between system variables and the performance of said computer system;

   generating a number of rules based on said derived relationships; and

   adjusting at least one of said system variables based on said generated number of rules to enhance the performance of said computer system.

2. A method as in claim 1, wherein generating said number of rules is based at least in part on a performance goal.

3. A method as in claim 1, wherein generating said number of rules is based at least in part on current values of said system variables, and wherein said number of rules recommend incremental changes to said system variables.

4. A method as in claim 1, wherein the steps of: (a) deriving said relationships, (b) generating said number of rules, and (c) adjusting said at least one system variable, are iterative.

5. A method as in claim 1, further comprising acquiring data for said system variables and the performance of said computer system, wherein said acquired data is used for deriving said relationships.

6. A method as in claim 5, wherein acquiring said data comprises:
   a)   gathering said data over time; and
   b)   logging said gathered data, wherein said relationships are derived based on said logged data.

7.   A method as in claim 6, wherein gathering said data is at discrete points in time.

8.   A method as in claim 6, wherein gathering said data is in response to an event on said computer system.

9.   A method as in claim 5, wherein acquiring said data comprises acquiring at least one of the following types of data: configuration data, workload data, and performance metric data.

10.   A method as in claim 1, further comprising identifying a number of applications on said computer system having variables that affect the performance of said computer system.

11.   A method as in claim 1, further comprising identifying a number of subsystem components on said computer system having variables that affect the performance of said computer system.

12.   A method for enhancing performance of a computer system, comprising:
        deriving a plurality of relationships between a plurality of system variables and the performance of said computer system;
        generating a plurality of rules based on said plurality of derived relationships; and
        adjusting at least one of said system variables based on said generated number of rules to enhance the performance of said computer system.

13.   A method as in claim 12, wherein the performance of said computer system is based on a plurality of performance metrics.

14.   An apparatus for enhancing performance of a computer system, comprising:

computer readable storage media;

computer readable program code stored on said computer readable storage media, comprising:

a) program code for deriving relationships between system variables and the performance of said computer system;

b) program code for generating a number of rules based on said derived relationships; and

c) program code for adjusting at least one of said system variables based on said generated number of rules to enhance the performance of said computer system.

15. An apparatus as in claim 14, wherein said number of rules are generated by said program code based at least in part on a performance goal.

16. An apparatus as in claim 14, further comprising program code for iteratively deriving relationships between said system variables and the performance of said computer system, and iteratively generating a number of rules based on said derived relationships when an adjustment is made to said at least one system variable.

17. An apparatus as in claim 14, further comprising program code for acquiring data for said system variables and the performance of said computer system.

18. An apparatus as in claim 17, wherein at least some of said data is acquired from a configuration file.

19. An apparatus as in claim 17, wherein at least some of said data is acquired by monitoring said computer system.

20. An apparatus as in claim 17, wherein said program code for acquiring said data comprises:

a) program code for gathering said data over time;

b) program code for logging said gathered data, wherein said program code for deriving derives said relationships based on said logged data.

21. An apparatus as in claim 17, wherein said program code for acquiring said data acquires at least one of the following types of data: configuration data, workload data, and performance metric data.

22. An apparatus as in claim 14, further comprising program code for identifying a number of applications on said computer system having variables that affect the performance of said computer system.

23. An apparatus as in claim 14, further comprising program code for identifying a number of subsystem components of said computer system having variables that affect the performance of said computer system.

24. An apparatus for enhancing performance of a computer system, comprising:

means for deriving relationships between system variables and the performance of said computer system;

means for generating a number of rules based on said derived relationships; and

means for adjusting at least one of said system variables based on said generated number of rules to enhance the performance of said computer system.

25. An apparatus as in claim 24, further comprising means for acquiring data for said system variables and the performance of said system.

26. An apparatus as in claim 25, wherein said acquiring means comprises:

a) means for gathering said data over time; and

b)   means for logging said data, wherein said relationships are derived based on said logged data.